

Serial No. 08/321,589

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essentially at a right angle to said support part and under which the thickness is [elastic] large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring.

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--12. (once amended) The method of using a device including a first cylindrical support part, with a section circular or not, wherein at least two movable arms can slide along said first support part and be turned around it into at least one direction, each of said arms having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part carrying said arm, said buffer having a contact face which is essentially at a right angle to said support part and under which the thickness is [elastic] large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring, said method for holding objects by clamping without damaging, comprising the steps of:

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- applying the buffer secured to each of said arms against [a] any resistant surface [such as the one of any object side or of another arm buffer side],
 - exerting on the back of each of said arms along said [the] support part [which carries said arm,] a manual thrust,
 - stopping this thrust, so as to lock each of said arms by tilting against said [the] support part [which carries said arm,].

--13. (once amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein said first support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm, said one movable arm having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part carrying said arm, said buffer having a contact face which is essentially at a right angle to said support part and under which the thickness is [elastic] large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring.

--14. (once amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein said first support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm and another coupler, said one movable arm having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part carrying said arm, said buffer having a contact face which is essentially at a right angle to said support part and under which the thickness is [elastic] large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring.